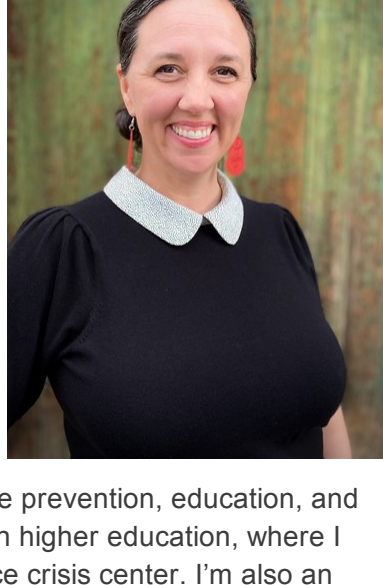




Executive Director Update

Hello! My name is Monica Rivera (she/her) and I'm honored to be serving as the new ED for Violence Free Colorado. I am writing this on day 25 of my tenure (which is starting to feel a little less like drinking from a firehose!) so I thought I'd take a second to introduce myself and my approach to this work.



I start every introduction by sharing that I'm originally from the east coast, specifically New Jersey. (Don't hold it against me.) I moved to Colorado in 2001 and have spent the majority of my time here working in the field of interpersonal violence prevention, education, and advocacy. Most of my professional career has been in higher education, where I served as director for a 24-hour interpersonal violence crisis center. I'm also an adjunct faculty member in the ethnic studies and gender studies departments at Colorado State University.

Since I'm somewhat new to the nonprofit world in Colorado, it might be helpful to learn more about my approach to anti-violence work. Feel free to check out last month's [newsletter](#) for links to my past work which include my TedX talk, a CBS Evening News interview, and a few other videos and articles.

One of the aspects that drew me to this opportunity at Violence Free Colorado was my belief in the power of coalitions. I'm excited about working together with member organizations and stakeholders to ensure that our state coalition is using our position to advocate for the most marginalized and silenced survivors you serve.

In order to thrive, coalitions require healthy internal structures that foster transparency, trust, and care. Without this internal infrastructure, even the most talented coalition staff can struggle to meet the needs of external constituents or to take the lead on state-wide topics. As you are aware, Violence Free Colorado has struggled to find stability over the past 2-3 years, which I imagine contributes to a reluctance toward investing in, or trusting, our ability to grow and change.

As a newcomer, I'm tracking potential areas for improvement and working with our team to identify the internal gaps that then result in external gaps for member organizations. I'm committed to connecting with stakeholders to hear directly from each of you how I, and in turn - we, can better serve you and the communities you support. First however, I want to be transparent that I will likely be more internally-focused during my first year than anticipated, as I believe that prioritizing the organizational stability of Violence Free Colorado will increase our long term consistency and longevity as a coalition.

I want to close by offering appreciation to our member organizations for their continued investment in and patience with Violence Free Colorado. Having spent over 15 years in direct service, I know first hand how being asked for patience can sometimes land sideways. It is my intention to balance our internal need for time with the urgency that ending interpersonal violence necessitates.

I will be providing updates in upcoming newsletters and would also love the opportunity to connect with you at the Public Policy Committee meeting on July 13 as well as the Statewide Call on July 26.

In the meantime, if you have questions/thoughts/feedback for me, please don't hesitate to reach out! I can be reached at MRivera@ViolenceFreeCO.org

Coalition Updates

Leadership Team

The CAIA conference was a terrific success – full of challenging ideas and engaged dialogue, and grounded in moments of wisdom, healing, and connection. We want to acknowledge and appreciate the hard work of the staff at CCASA and here at Violence Free Colorado for making it happen. **Special thanks to the CAIA Steering Committee: Agueda Morgan, Maria Mendez, Miranda Encina, and Sierra Agens, and our Conference Planner Marci Whitman for creating the framework, identifying speakers, and working with our presenters.** Finally, thank you to all who joined us. Your presence helped create a powerful learning experience. Any time we can spend together as advocates in shared community is valuable and sustaining. Thank you again. For those who registered, session recordings will be available in a few weeks. Check here, in your email, and on your Basecamp message boards for updates.



Marissa Shoback, Roshan Kalantar, Monica Rivera

Leadership Team

At 12 p.m. July 26 we'll reconvene our Statewide Calls. July's call will include an update from Keisha Sarpong, Denver Metro Domestic Violence Fatality Review Coordinator, on her new role and the work of the DV Fatality Review Board. We'll also hear from Monica on her first few weeks at Violence Free Colorado and have time for connection.

If you haven't already, please read our [statement](#) on the recent SCOTUS ruling overturning Roe v Wade. This ruling is yet another painful and harmful attack on fundamental rights in the U.S., and it may push survivors in neighboring states to travel to Colorado seeking the reproductive healthcare they need. We're working to build training opportunities in the next few months and are always available for individual technical assistance.

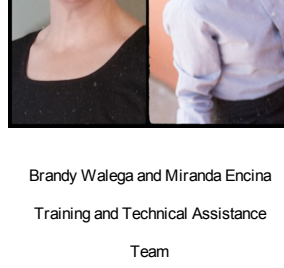
As always, please reach out with any questions or needs,

[Roshan](#)

Training and TA Team

[ACRTI Foundations Video](#)

ICYMI, check out our [ACRTI Foundations video](#) on YouTube. We use an accessible, culturally-responsive, trauma-informed lens (ACRTI) to approach advocacy and ongoing education when working with survivors.

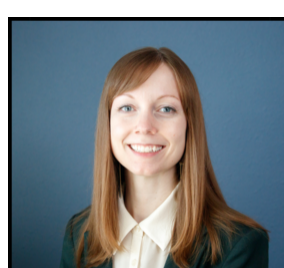


Brandy Walega and Miranda Encina

Training and Technical Assistance Team

Public Policy Team

Our end of session report is now available! Read more about the bills we worked on in 2022 [here](#). *Para la versión de nuestro informe de 2022 en español, [haga clic aquí](#).*



Amelia Lobo, Violence Free Colorado

Public Policy Specialist

Last month we joined the National Network to End Domestic Violence and advocates from around the country to meet with federal congressional offices and advocate for funding and the reauthorization of FVPSA. We'll keep you updated on any progress we see. Thank you to the programs who joined us!

Finally, Amelia's last day at the coalition was July 6. Please join us in thanking her for her incredible work in support of our public policy advocacy during her time at Violence Free Colorado. We will miss her and wish her all the very best!

Community Impact Team

[Share your input for our new website!](#)

In the coming months, we'll be redesigning our website! Don't forget to take our [quick survey](#) to share what you're looking for in our new site.



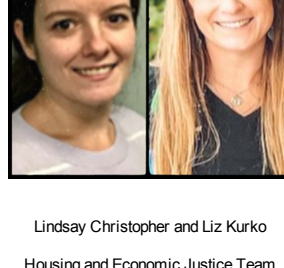
Hannah Colter, Violence Free Colorado

Community Impact Specialist

Housing and Economic

Justice Team

Join us in welcoming Liz Kurko to our Housing and Economic Justice Team as our part-time Flexible Financial Technical Assistance Specialist!



Lindsay Christopher and Liz Kurko

Housing and Economic Justice Team

Liz (she/her) has over 10 years' experience working in the intersecting fields of interpersonal violence prevention, housing, women's rights and empowerment, mental health, and advocacy in Colorado, Michigan, and New York. She graduated with a B.A. in Women and Gender Studies in 2012 and is currently working on a M.A. in Counseling at Regis University. In her free time, she can be found exploring the mountains with her cute pitbull, Willow, or protesting in the streets for human rights. She has a deep love for pickles and she enjoys dancing, gardening, traveling, and animals. Welcome, Liz!

Resources and Other News

Abortion Access Information and Resources

If you or someone you know needs access to information, an abortion, and/or other reproductive healthcare services, try these resources:

- [Cobalt](#)
- [COLOR](#)
- [Planned Parenthood of the Rocky Mountains](#)
- [Colorado Doula Project](#)
- [Indigenous Women Rising](#)



Image from Louisiana ACLU

To learn more about the Reproductive Justice movement and the connections to relationship violence prevention and advocacy, [click here](#).

EndTAB - Digital Safety Guides

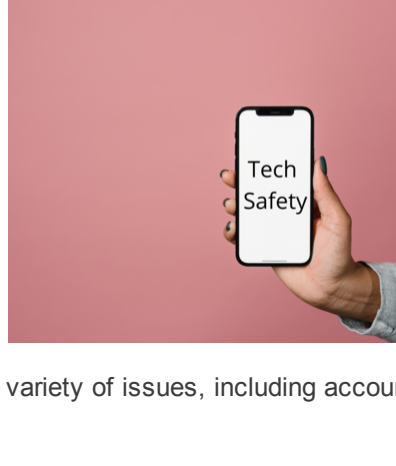
[Information](#)

Digital abuse is a real concern for many domestic violence survivors. Check out these three digital safety checkup resources that will help anyone to be safer online:

[Google Security Checkup](#)

[Apply Security Guide](#)

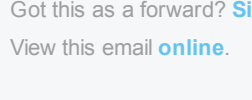
[Consumer Report's Security Planner](#): For other devices beyond Apple and Google, try this resource to address a variety of issues, including account compromise, keeping data safe, identity theft, and more.



Contact Us

communityimpact@violencefreeco.org

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